

authorization of the Chairman either with the approval of a majority of the Committee or with the consent of the ranking minority member.

RULE 14.—CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

No summary of a Committee report, prediction of the contents of a report, or statement of conclusions concerning any investigation shall be made by a member of the Committee or by any staff member of the Committee prior to the issuance of a report of the Committee.

RULE 15.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The Committee shall have a staff director, selected by the Chairman. The staff director shall be an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(b) The Ranking Minority Member may designate an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate as the minority staff director.

(c) The staff director, under the general supervision of the Chairman, is authorized to deal directly with agencies of the Government and with non-Government groups and individuals on behalf of the Committee.

(d) The Chairman or staff director shall timely notify the Ranking Minority Member or the minority staff director of decisions made on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 16.—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee. Specifically, the Chairman is authorized, during the interim periods between meetings of the Committee, to act on all requests submitted by any executive department, independent agency, temporary or permanent commissions and committees of the Federal Government, the Government Printing Office and any other Federal entity, pursuant to the requirements of applicable Federal law and regulations.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. A date of great significance for many Rhode Islanders, and growing in significance for all Americans, this day not only commemorates the atrocities of the past, but also reminds us that it must not happen again. Remembering the victims is our duty to the past and to the future.

The term "genocide" did not even exist when these atrocities occurred from 1915 to 1923, yet the numbers are staggering. Over 1.5 million people perished. Over 500,000 people were forcibly removed from their homes and their homeland. Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were killed. Men were removed from their families and women and children were left vulnerable to deportation, kidnapping, and starvation, and 132,000 Armenian orphans became foster children in American families.

It is vital for the distinct identity of every culture to be honored and celebrated. Over one and a half million Americans are of Armenian heritage, and on this day we are grateful for their many contributions to our country. Rhode Island and this entire Na-

tion continue to benefit from a strong and vibrant Armenian community.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MEDIC STEVEN SIRKO

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Portage. Steven Sirko, 20 years old, died on April 17 while stationed in Maqadiyah, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Steven risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Recently married to another army medic, Steven turned down a chance to stay stateside with the Army's Special Forces in order to be in Iraq near his wife. A football player in high school, Steven was remembered by friends and family as a tough, outgoing student. His father told a local newspaper, that his son was "very strong, very outgoing, very respectful. After 9/11, like so many young men, he wanted to fight terrorism." His stepbrother, who also served in the Army, called Steven, "the light of any crowd."

Steven was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served in the first battalion, 30th infantry regiment, third brigade, and third infantry division. This brave young soldier leaves behind his wife, Virginia; his father, Rick Sirko; his mother, Linda Lipford; his stepmother, Rose Sirko; three sisters; one brother; and two stepbrothers.

Today, I join Steven's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Steven, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Steven was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Steven will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Steven's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Steven's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Steven Sirko in the CONGRESSIONAL

RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Steven's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Steven.

SPECIALIST GRANT CROFT

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly recognize SPC Grant Croft of Sioux Falls, SD, for receiving the Army Commendation Medal.

Specialist Croft is serving in Mosul, Iraq, as a medic for the 2nd Platoon, 194th Military Police Company based at Fort Campbell, KY. He is a talented and dedicated serviceman, who, according to his superiors, "On a daily basis, sets the standard for what a soldier medic should be. Specialists Croft's strength, stamina and moral character are a constant source of strength for our platoon."

On January 21, 2005, while training at the Udari Range in Iraq, prior to the platoon's arrival in Mosul, Specialist Croft earned the Army Commendation Medal for his performance following an Apache helicopter crash. The Army's description of the event states: "Without regard for his own safety, Specialist Croft quickly moved to the crashed aircraft and immediately began the necessary medical treatment for [the pilots'] life threatening injuries. He placed himself in harms way through the entire process. His selfless act and professional actions were those of a highly skilled and dedicated medic."

It is with great honor that I share Specialist Croft's tremendous accomplishments with my colleagues. He is a true patriot, and America is deeply grateful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOE BEYRL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on Friday, April 22, a true American hero was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Joe Beyrle of Muskegon, MI, was a paratrooper in the 101st Division on D-Day in World War II. His capture by the Germans and his heroic escape to fight with the Russian Army on the Eastern Front, making him the only American soldier to fight with both the United States and Russian armies against Nazi Germany, have been chronicled in a wonderful book by retired Army Colonel Thomas Taylor called *The Simple Sounds of Freedom*.

It was my privilege to speak at the burial ceremony for Joe Beyrle. I ask unanimous consent that my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: